

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 3-10, cancels claims 1 and 2 and adds new claim 11-13. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 3-13.

Claim 3 stands objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Various amendments were made throughout claim 3 and the remaining claims 4-10 so as to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 2 of the Office Action that claims 3-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. As indicated above, claims 3-10 were amended so as to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 3-10 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Forman (U.S. Patent No. 6,772,374). As indicated above, claims 1 and 2 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 1 and 2 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 1 and 2 are taught or suggested by any of the references of record, particularly Forman, whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

The cancellation of claims 1 and 2 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claims 11-13. New claims 11-13 recite many of the same features recited in claims 3-10 determined by the Examiner as not being taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Therefore, new claims 11-13 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 3-10.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 3-13 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 3-13 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.41119X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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